

HALL CARD FINGERPRINT NOT WILLIE'S

Seven or Eight Differences Seen By U.S. Navy Man

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after the bodies were found, and the defense previously had pounced on the delay.

Q. What effect would the pressure of the finger have on a latent print? A. It would make the ridges stronger.

An Exact Science

Q. You testified at the trial of a Chinese in Jersey City. Didn't you say that your theory is that the possibility of two men having the same print is one in a million? A. I did.

Q. Then you regard fingerprinting as an exact science. A. I do, absolutely.

Q. Have you examined the calling card? A. Yes.

Q. Have you examined the print of Willie Stevens, taken by the police? A. I have.

Q. Are they the fingerprints of one and the same person. A. They are not, sir?

Willie Stevens laughed outright. His attorneys frowned. Mrs. Hall restrained her brother, but Willie's joy was evident.

At McCarter's request Taylor compared the enlargements. He traced lines and bifurcations, noting seven or eight discrepancies.

Not Made by Same Person

"There is absolutely no doubt that these fingerprints were not



MRS. ELEANOR MILLS

made by the same person," Taylor concluded, as he returned to the stand and McCarter resumed his queries. Taylor has been in the identification bureau of the Navy for 16 years.

Q. How many differences did you find? A. Seven or eight distinct differences.

Q. Assuming a card to have been

She Saw Bluefish Weighed



MRS. ARTHUR APPLGATE testifies in the Hall-Mills murder case that she was on the beach at Lavalette, N. J., on the night of September 14, 1922, when her husband, Arthur, caught the bluefish which was weighed soon thereafter in her presence by Henry Stevens.

lying in the grass from Thursday to Saturday. Assume it to have been picked up by one or two persons and put into a brown paper box. Assume it to have been brought here, taken to the prosecutor's office and placed in a box with other articles. Assume it to have been taken to New Brunswick and examined by four or five persons. Not having been developed, could the perspiration on that card permit a print?

A. In my opinion it couldn't be done. The rubbing and handling would obliterate the print.

McCarter, in his hypothetical question, traced the course of the rector's calling card as previously testified to by state witnesses.

Q. Did you notice any difference in the color of the smudge about the disputed print and the color of the smudge on the rest of the card. A. The print has a bluish tinge. The rest of the smudge has a brownish tinge.

At this point Senator Simpson beckoned to Inspector John Underwood and Capt. Harry Walsh.

At a whispered order from the prosecutor, Walsh hurried to a corner of the room, where the jury guards are seated.

Walsh emerged from the corner with Robert Neilsen, young defense attorney.

Neilsen grinned sheepishly as Walsh escorted him from the room.

"That red-headed — planted

himself right among those jury guards," Simpson rasped. "How does he get that way!"

Neilsen returned ten minutes later and sat with Willie Stevens.

Heated Discussion

Walsh took the lawyer into the sheriff's office and sounds of



J. J. Underwood Dr. O. Schultze

heated discussion came to reporters' outside.

"I'd hate to tell you what he said to me," Neilsen said when he emerged a few minutes later.

Neilsen said he would not protest to the court at Simpson's oath.

"That is a personal matter between Simpson and me," the lawyer said. The husky defense counsel plainly showed his anger as others of defense counsel urged him to hold his temper.

Threats Heard

Simpson's words were not heard beyond the newspaper section, and it was some minutes before news of what had happened spread

Defense Experts Stun Murder Prosecution

through the crowd. There were angry threats then from some of Neilsen's New Brunswick friends.

Simpson asked that his cross examination of Taylor be deferred until tomorrow, that his experts might study Taylor's testimony.

Fred Sandberg, detective sergeant in charge of the Washington Police Department Identification Bureau, was called when Justice Parker granted Simpson's request.

On cross-examination Sandberg admitted that he had never before testified for a defendant in a criminal case.

The Washington policeman then began his demonstration to disprove the state's contention that the calling card bears Willie Stevens's fingerprints.

Willie Follows Story

Q. Are they prints of the same finger? A. They are not.

With yellow pencil, Willie was



R. H. McCarter E. H. Schwartz

tracing on a copy the differences in the prints as pointed out by his expert. Henry Stevens also had a copy, but the evidence did not interest Mrs. Hall.

Gerhardt Kuhne followed Sandberg on the stand and like his fellow experts declared that Willie Stevens's fingerprint did not appear on the minister's calling card.

With pointer in hand, Kuhne had compared the two enlargements, line by line.

Q. Are these the prints of the same finger? A. They are not the prints of the same finger.

Q. Were the colors on the print smudge and on the other smudge of the card made by the same powder? A. They were not made by the same powder.

Q. What was used? A. The disputed print was developed by graphite or charcoal. The rest of the card was developed by either lamp black or bone black.

Q. What is the difference? A. Graphite or charcoal is gritty; one can feel it easily. Bone black or lamp black is steel blue. It has no grit.

Hints at Forgery

Kuhne declared that the fingerprint was developed after the card itself had been treated. The print development was superimposed afterward.

Kuhne hinted at forgery in the

calling card print when he said the finger impression was in such a position that he could not conceive of a person holding the bit of pasteboard in the awkward position indicated.

Under further questioning by



H. T. Dickman Mrs. Anna Hoag

McCarter, the expert emphatically backed up the suggestion of forgery by testifying that he noticed a change in the card print now from the photograph taken of it by the New York Daily Mirror several weeks ago.

The defense, when the State was presenting its case, contended that there had been many opportunities for various persons to tamper with the card.

Writing Erased

Q. Did you find anything with reference to erased writing on the card? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Tell us about it.

Simpson objected on the ground that Kuhne had not qualified as a handwriting expert.

Q. Have you examined the card



REV. E. W. HALL

with a glass? A. Yes, the entire surface of the card.

Q. Will you tell us what you detected, with reference to erasures of writing?

"This man may be willing to testify on anything," Simpson in-

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OUR EAST SIDE GANG—

Admission 1c—Or What Have You?

By Louis G. Ferstadt

